

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD--CONCLUSION GENERAL DEBATE

REF: USUN 1792

1. SUMMARY : EIGHTEEN ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS SPOKE IN CONCLUSION OF GENERAL DEBATE. GENERALLY, THEY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR INCREASED UNICEF WORK IN NUTRITION AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS AND STATED INTEREST IN EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT SURVEY PROPOSALS. SEVERAL SPEAKERS SUPPORTED PROGRAMS FOR INDOCHINA AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. SIX REPS ANNOUNCED INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LABOUISSSE RESPONDED AT END OF GENERAL DEBATE TO POINTS RAISED THEREIN. END SUMMARY.

2. SWEDEN COMPLAINED THAT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DONORS ARE NOT PROPORTIONATE TO THEIR RELATIVE ECONOMIC STRENGTHS AND CALLED UPON OTHER DONORS TO CORRECT THIS IMBALANCE; IN SAME CONTEXT SWEDEN INCREASED ITS DONATION TO 55 MILLION KRONER FROM 50 MILLION KRONER. IN DISCUSSING INDOCHINA PROGRAM SWEDEN SAID THAT THIS SHOULD ENJOY HIGHER PRIORITY FOR FUNDS FROM REGULAR BUDGET. SWEDEN ALSO SPOKE AT LENGTH FOR RAPID AND INCREASED ASSISTANCE FROM REGULAR BUDGET TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BOTH IN REFUGEE COUNTRIES AND IN LIBERATED AREAS THEMSELVES.

3. HIGH POINT OF UK INTERVENTION WAS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT UK WILL INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO UNICEF BY 60 PERCENT. REMAINDER

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OF UK STATEMENT WAS SUPPORTIVE OF UNICEF PARTICIPATION IN

WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC) AND POPULATION CONFERENCE, HEALTH PROGRAMS, AND CHILD NUTRITION AND REQUEST THAT UNICEF BE GIVEN MORE FLEXIBILITY IN PROVIDING DISASTER RELIEF.

4. USSR, ECHOED BY POLAND, SUPPORTED INDOCHINA PROGRAM AND CALLED FOR DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNICEF AND PRG. AFTER A REFERENCE TO IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE REMAINDER OF SOVIET SPEECH WAS NON-POLEMIC AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CONCENTRATION OF FUNDS ON FOOD AND HEALTH NEEDS OF CHILDREN INCLUDING TRAINING FOR PARAMEDICS. EVEN SO SOVIETS CAME OUT STRONGLY FOR ALLOWING RECIPIENT COUNTRIES TO PLAN USE OF ALLOCATED FUNDS.

5. MOST LDC'S SPEAKING MADE SHORT STATEMENTS CONTAINING FOLLOWING POINTS (THAILAND, EGYPT, CHILE, INDIA, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, AND VENEZUELA). AFTER CITING IMPACT OF CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS ON THEIR ECONOMIES AND POINTING OUT NEED FOR INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS, THEY CALLED FOR GREATER EMPHASIS ON NUTRITION, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS. WHILE THEY GENERALLY SUPPORTED DISASTER RELIEF ACTIVITIES OF UNICEF AND CALLED UPON UNICEF TO COOPERATE WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA, THEY ALSO STATED THAT UNICEF SHOULD COORDINATE ITS ASSISTANCE WITH THE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF THE COUNTRY CONCERNED. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT UNICEF WILL PARTICIPATE IN WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE (WPC) AND WFC. INDIA IS INCREASING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO \$1.75 MILLION.

6. ALGERIA AND CONGO EXPRESSED MORE RADICAL LDC VIEWPOINT. IN PARTICULAR THEY ASKED FOR GREATER UNICEF CONTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA. ALGERIA ALSO CLAIMED THAT PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS ONLY MAKES AN EXISTING SITUATION WORSE BUT THAT THE BASIC PROBLEMS REMAIN THE SAME.

7. IN OTHER INTERVENTIONS JAPAN STATED CONCERN OVER EFFECT OF CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS ON CHILDREN AND ANNOUNCED PLANNED INCREASE IN ITS UNICEF CONTRIBUTION TO 1.75 MILLION. TURKEY ASKED FOR INCREASED ATTENTION TO NUTRITION, POTABLE WATER SUPPLY, AND WORK WITH UNFPA. SWITZERLAND STATED THAT UNICEF SHOULD CONCENTRATE ITS RESOURCES IN THE LEAST DC'S AND THAT COST-SHARING SHOULD BE EXPANDED WHEREVER POSSIBLE WITH OTHER RECIPIENTS. WHILE NOT OPPOSING SUGGESTION THAT UNICEF HAVE INCREASED FUNDING FLEXIBILITY IN MEETING DISASTER SITUATIONS, SWISS REP SAID THAT USUALLY SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE

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SHOULD BE RELIED UPON AND THAT DRAWING FROM REGULAR BUDGET SHOULD BE EXCEPTION.

8. LABOUISSE MADE LENGTHY, STATESMANLIKE INTERVENTION AT END OF DEBATE. MAJOR POINTS INCLUDE FOLLOWING. FIRST, THERE WAS A NEED TO URGE GOVERNMENTS TO PUT MORE MONEY INTO SOCIAL FIELD AND TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON RURAL AREAS. SECOND, WHILE UNICEF MUST COORDINATE IT PROGRAMS WITH POLICIES OF RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS, IT MUST KEEP IT SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND MOTHERS;

HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE DECLINE IN NUTRITION ACTIVITIES AS BEING RELATED TO THE POLICIES OF RECIPIENTS. THIRD, ON DISASTER RELIEF LABOUISSSE SAID THAT UNICEF WILL RETAIN ITS PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT BUT WILL PARTICIPATE IN RELIEF ACTIVITIES WHEN UNICEF HAS UNIQUE COMPETENCE IN FACING

THE SITUATION EVEN WHEN THIS ENTAILS DRAWING DOWN FUNDS COMMITTED TO LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT, IF REQUESTED BY COUNTRY CONCERNED.

FOURTH, ON LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, HE SAID THAT SUGGESTED PROJECTS COULD NOT BE LARGER BECAUSE OF NEEDS ELSEWHERE AND THAT WHILE UNICEF HAS BEEN IN CONTRACT WITH OAU AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, IT HAS NOT BEEN FEASIBLE TO SUGGEST PROJECTS FOR THE LIBERATED AREAS THEMSELVES. FINALLY, HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE INTEREST IN THE MANAGEMENT SURVEY BUT POINTED OUT THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE SETTING OF POLICIES AND PRIORITIES

WAS A MATTER FOR THE BOARD AND NOT THE CONSULTANTS.
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